



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

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MAYOR STEWART ANNOUNCES NEW & EXPANDED FREE WIFI LOCATIONS AVAILABLE TO CSDNB STUDENTS AND CITY RESIDENTS

NEW BRITAIN – Mayor Erin Stewart announced today that free city WIFI has been added to three locations throughout the City of New Britain as a result of the efforts of the School Technology Task Force. The locations include: the City Health Department, Willow Street Park and the New Britain Public Library. The goal of the task force is to connect students of the Consolidated School District of New Britain to the internet.

The City is looking to expand WIFI access to twenty additional locations by the end of the calendar year. Currently, the Task Force is working with Comcast to provide internet essentials service to identified student households in need of immediate internet access. Mayor Erin Stewart is supportive of this initiative.

“We are working hard in conjunction with the school district to accommodate families who have an immediate need for internet access,” said Mayor Stewart. “Internet access is an essential tool for our students, especially during these challenging times due to the pandemic. This plan is critical to making sure our students stay connected, remain engaged, and continue working towards their future.” Mayor Stewart continued, “These WIFI signals will push out close to one thousand feet, servicing not only our students, but potentially other residents in need of connectivity – another benefit of this great program.”

“This initiative has been a collaborative effort,” said Paul Salina who sits on the Task Force. “Since early May, the New Britain Public School District and the IT Department at City Hall has worked in unity to address the issue of limited internet or WIFI access that many of our school –age New Britain families face,” said Salina. “Mayor Erin Stewart supports this unified effort to address the issue and has authorized the use of City Hall resources in this collaborative venture.”

New Britain Public Library Director Patricia Rutkowski is optimistic of how offering expanded free WIFI will help attract youth to the library to use their services. “This is wonderful news and we can’t wait to get the work started,” Rutkowski said in an email to the Task Force. “It will help us reach kids who might not otherwise come to the library and give them an opportunity to discover the many services available to them.” The expanded free WIFI in the library also has the added benefit of encouraging social distancing by offering a wider-range WIFI signal to guests.

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